



Attorney Docket No. 54008.8037.US00
P00-0016

365
12/29/03
#17

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF: GORDON RAY NELSON *ET AL.*

APPLICATION NO.: 09/612,009

FILED: JULY 7, 2000

FOR: **AUTOMATED SEMICONDUCTOR
PROCESSING SYSTEM**

EXAMINER: THOMAS J. BRAHAN

ART UNIT: 3652

CONF. NO: 7645

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. Timing of Submission

This IDS is believed to be timely in that it is being submitted under 37 CFR § 1.97(b), that is (1) within three months of the filing date of the application, which is not a continued prosecution application filed under § 1.53(d); or (2) within three months of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 CFR § 1.491; or (3) before the mailing of a first Office action on the merits; or (4) before the mailing of a first Office action after filing a request for continued examination under § 1.114. Thus, no fee is required. The references listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449 (modified) may be material to the examination of this application; the Examiner is requested to make them of record in the application.

2. Cited Information

Copies of the foreign references are enclosed.

3. Effect of Information Disclosure Statement (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(h))

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a search has been made; (ii) additional information material to the

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I hereby certify that this paper (along with any referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

September 19, 2003
Date of Deposit

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examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the cited information is, or is considered to be, material to patentability. In addition, applicant does not admit that any enclosed item of information constitutes prior art to the subject invention and specifically reserves the right to demonstrate that any such reference is not prior art.

4. Fee Payment

No fees are believed due because this Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing of a first Office action after filing a request for continued examination.

Respectfully submitted,

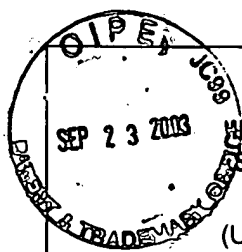
Perkins Coie LLP

Date: Sept. 19, 2003

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**Form PTO-1449 (Modified)
(Use several sheets if necessary)**COMPLETE IF KNOWN**

Application Number	09/612,009
Confirmation Number	7645
Filing Date	July 7, 2000
First Named Inventor	Gordon Ray NELSON
Group Art Unit	3652
Examiner Name	Thomas J. Brahan
Attorney Docket No.	54008.8037.US00 (P00-0016)

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of

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	U.S. Patent or Application		Name of Patentee or Inventor of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
	AA	4,449,885		Hertel et al.	05/22/84	
	AB	4,568,234		Lee t al.	02/04/86	
	AC	4,643,629		Takahashi et al.	02/17/87	
	AD	4,682,614		Silvernail et al.	07/28/87	
	AE	4,701,096		Fisher, Jr.	10/20/87	
	AF	4,924,890		Giles	05/15/90	
	AG	4,981,408		Hughes et al.	01/01/91	
	AH	5,048,164		Harima	09/17/91	
	AI	5,055,036		Asano et al.	10/08/91	
	AJ	5,064,337		Asakawa et al.	11/12/91	
	AK	5,125,784		Asano	06/30/92	
	AL	5,178,639		Nishi	01/12/93	
	AM	5,180,273		Sakaya et al.	01/19/93	
	AN	5,215,420		Hughes	01/01/93	
	AO	5,232,328		Owczarz	08/03/93	
	AP	5,301,700		Kamikawa et al.	04/12/94	
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	AT	5,562,383		Iwai et al.	10/08/96	
	AU	5,603,777		Ohashi	02/18/97	
	AV	5,613,821		Muka et al.	03/25/97	RECEIVED SEP 25 2003 GROUP 3600
	AW	5,674,039		Walker et al.	10/07/97	
	AX	5,740,059		Hirata et al.	04/14/98	
	AY	5,772,386		Mages et al.	06/30/98	
	AZ	5,947,675		Matsushima	09/07/99	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not criteria is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application(s).



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STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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		NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)			
	BA	6,009,890		Kaneko et al.	01/04/00	
	BB	6,030,208		Williams et al.	02/29/00	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Foreign Patent or Application			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication or Filing Date of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T
		Office	NUMBER	Kind Code (if known)				
	BC	WO	A 81/02533		Thompson	17.09.81		
	BD	EP	047132		Hereaus	10.03.82		
	BE	EP	560 439		Tempress B.V.	15.09.93		

OTHER PRIOR ART-NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No.	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published.	T

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